1991-2000 respectively. However, the collection in excise up to January, iOOl is higher by 12% over the last year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Filing of Income Tax Returns

614. .SHRI K.C KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the cities of Karnataka covered under six economic criteria for filing of Income Tax returns *m* Form 2C who have filed returns for the assessment year 1999-2000;

(b) whether possessing a telephone is one of the criteria for filing the Income Tax returns in Form 2C; and

(c) whether Government would delete possessing telephone from the above rule since telephone is a necessity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACH AND RAN): (a) The number of persons who have filed returns in Form 2C for the assessment year 1999-2000 in the Karnataka and Goa region is 51,044.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Suggestions have been received for modifications in the criterion relating to subscription to a telephone. These suggestions are being examined in the current budgetary exercise, and the decision of the Government thereon will be reflected in the Budget proposals.

Circulating of one Thousand Rupee Notes

† 615. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items which appeared in the "Dainik Jagaran" of 26th January, 2001 under the caption "Hazaar ka note chaian mein na aane ka mukhya karan kalabaazari"; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.